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SAN ANGELO MAN CHARGED IN 20-COUNT FEDERAL INDICTMENT

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that a federal indictment charging San Angelo, Texas, resident, Ruben Rios, was returned this week by a federal grand jury in Lubbock, Texas. That indictment charges Rios with 20 counts of aiding and abetting the filing of a false tax document, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2). It is anticipated that Rios will surrender to federal authorities within the week.

According to the indictment, Rios aided, assisted in, procured, counseled, and advised the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of 20 individual income tax returns which were false and fraudulent. The indictment alleges that the returns falsely represented that the taxpayers were entitled to claim Earned Income Credits in specific amounts, when, as Rios well knew, they were not, and as a result, more than \$29,000 in fraudulent tax refunds were claimed.

An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty. However, if convicted on all counts, Ruben Rios faces a maximum statutory sentence of 60 years imprisonment, a \$5 million fine and restitution.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI).

Assistant United States Attorney Roger McRoberts of the Lubbock, Texas, United States Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

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